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for Harold Weisberg. In a badly written and poorly argued book, *Case Open: The Unanswered JFK Assassination Questions* (1994), Weisberg claimed to find "hundreds of factual errors" and many violations of good historical practice—"omissions, fake map, invented 'facts,' and misrepresentations"—in Posner's book, *Case Closed: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Assassination of JFK* (1993). In this letter, Wroné hoists himself on his own petard by misrepresenting to us a fake book, Weisberg's *Whoring with History: How the Gerald Posners Protect the King Assassins*. As if, blind you, such a book existed. Searches for it on amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, Lexis-Nexis and OCLC yield nothing. Through the looking glass, it is no longer odd to argue that in order to review a book one should have read another, albeit an unpublished one. It is worse than odd, however, that having found a press to publish a tedious volume of personal attack on Posner and the Kennedy assassination, Weisberg now seeks one for 472 more pages of bile on Posner and the King assassination. Someone here should "get a life."

King scholars have shown that some powerful federal agencies were hostile to King, that there may have been degrees of conspiracy in his assassination and that there was bureaucratic ineptitude in the investigation. Beyond that, however, Weisberg and Wroné find few credible allies because of their own distortions of reality. It is worse than misleading to claim that James Earl Ray was exonerated in a 1974 trial. There were federal court proceedings in Ray's case in 1974. Had there been a trial and had it exonerated Ray, as Wroné assures us, why did he remain in prison until his death? Beyond the incompetence of government investigators, beyond Ray's guilt or innocence, Wroné, Weisberg and the conspiracy theorists have yet to offer any evidence that government agencies conspired to assassinate King. Rather than laying out a documented, reasonable case for such a conspiracy, they peddle malicious innuendo about those who disagree with them, implying that Posner is motivated by "purposes not historical," sinister "private ends" or CIA subsidies. If conspiracy advocates have evidence of that or of a conspiracy of government agencies in King's death, show us the evidence by publishing it.

To the Editor:

I am surprised Mr. Wroné's letter finds space in the *Journal of American History*. It's a Tweedle Dud. Unhappy with my review of Gerald Posner's *Killing the Dream: James Earl Ray and the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, Wroné faults Posner and me for falling "short of history standards." One would not want to do that. I used Lewis Carroll's language because, like Holocaust-deniers, conspiracy theorists like Wroné seem to dwell somewhere on the other side of the looking glass. Responding to them can be bottomlessly unproductive. My review noted that conspiracies undoubtedly occur and that Posner outlines what he believes were the most likely parameters of any conspiracy in King's assassination.

Wroné has hired on as an academic gofer

As I write, the Justice Department has just issued a report recommending no further action on the King family's request for a renewed inquiry into the assassination. I have no "gratuitous, misconceived, and improper" advice for the family. It has received and acted on quite enough bad advice in the last twenty years. Good, thoughtful advice is more capably offered by Michael Eric Dyson in his book, *I May Not Get There with You: The True Martin Luther*

King, Jr. (2000). The family (and the rest of us) would do well to read and ponder it.

Ralph E. Luker
Atlanta, Georgia

Editorial note: Except for corrections of spelling and other purely formal matters, letters to the editor are printed as received.